

November 3, 2005

The enhancement of conservation and environmental goals in concern with Douglas County is a high priority for the area. CRP is one of the best tools for the county and the farmers . CSP if it was fully funded would be another program that would benefit the state for it helps young and old farmers alike. The federal and state land have some protection because of being public lands and managed for wildlife purposes. but the private lands for economic considerations have no protection without conservation programs such as CRP and other conservation programs. For CRP we need to make **Federal Priority Areas** to help protect private land within the 11 western states to help the Greater Sage Grouse and the Columbia Sharp-Tail Grouse . Because the Grouse use the CRP land for cover and habitat.

We need to add to the criteria of the provision of Section 1410.4 Maximum county acreage to expand from the 25% of farm lands in CRP to include :

Wildlife – Species of concern, Candidate, and Endangered Species per the Endangered Species Act.

Thank You

North Douglas County Landowners

Lee B. Ward

**North Douglas County Landowners
3025 Rd. W N.E.
Mansfield, WA 98830
Co-Chairs: Lee G. Hemmer & Richard Rice**

Date: October 5, 2005

To Whom it may concern:

This letter is in reference to the protection of the several species of Prairie Grouse (Greater sage, Columbian sharp-tailed, Gunnison, Atwater) found in the 11 western states (Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North & South Dakota) and two Canadian Provinces. Within the United States, Federal and state lands are managed for wildlife purposes, but the management of private lands must include economic considerations that may not specifically benefit Prairie Grouse. We are petitioning the USDA to include in the 2007 Farm Bill, national priority areas to emphasize protection of the several species of Prairie Grouse on private lands. This would give the Prairie Grouse continued protection in an effort to avoid listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the future. This protection would come in the form of USDA programs rewarding private landowners for conservation efforts through the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Security Program and other Farm Bill conservation programs.

Thank You for your consideration,

Lee G. Hemmer - Richard Rice Co-Chairs
(509) 633-1962 (509) 633-0182

cc- Western Gov. Assoc.
cc- Sen. Maria Cantwell
cc- Sen. Patty Murray
cc- Richard (Doc) Hastings
cc- Cathy McMorris
cc- WDFS -Jeff Koenings
cc- Washington State Cattlemen's Assoc.
cc- WSCD- Jerry Scheele



Title: Protection for Prairie Grouse Species in the Western United States

Whereas: Several species of Prairie Grouse (Greater sage, Columbian sharp-tailed, Gunnison, Atwater) are found in the 11 western states (Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North & South Dakota) and two Canadian Provinces. Within the United States, Federal and state lands are managed for wildlife purposes, but the management of private lands must include economic considerations that may not specifically benefit Prairie Grouse.

Whereas: This protection would come in the form of USDA programs rewarding private landowners for conservation efforts through the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Security Program and other Farm Bill conservation programs.

Whereas: This would give the Prairie Grouse continued protection in an effort to avoid listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the future.

Be It Resolved: We are petitioning the USDA to include in the 2007 Farm Bill, national priority areas to emphasize protection of the several species of Prairie Grouse on private lands.

Submitted by _____

Richard S. Rice

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT, USDA

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible text block]

DATE: [Illegible]
BY: [Illegible]
[Illegible text block]

RE: [Illegible]
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REFERENCE: [Illegible]
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